

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena

May 1997

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
Lagrange County 46 NW Stone Lake to 46.5 NW Stone Lake	18	2130EST 2131EST	1	100	0	1	1.5M	0	Tornado (F0)
Tornado at Stone Lake at 930 pm est threw boat from lake into living room, house collapsed. Eight homes damaged.									
Lagrange County 43 NW Lagrange	18	2138EST 2139EST	1	200	0	1	1.5M	0	Tornado (F0)
Highway 9 near county road 200N near Lagrange, tornado picked up sheriffs car and spun it around, minor injury to deputy from flying glass. Several trailers and cars in vicinity damaged.									
Lagrange County 46 NW Shipshewana to 47 NW East Of Shipshewana	18	2139EST 2141EST			0	0	1.5M	0	Thunderstorm Wind
Thunderstorm winds destroyed several business and other buildings in town and just east of town. Large trees and power lines down.									
Noble County 35 NW Near Ligonier to 30 N Near Kendallville	18	2155EST 2231EST			0	0	4M	0	Thunderstorm Wind
Thunderstorm winds near kendallville downed large trees and power lines. Thunderstorms moving across north side of county damaged farm buildings, a church, homes and utility towers.									
Steuben County 44 N Angola Airport to 45 N East Of Angola Arpt	18	2200EST 2202EST	1	200	0	0	10M	0	Tornado (F0)
Angola Airport had 21 aircraft and 3 hangars damaged. In surrounding area farm buildings, homes and business, utility towers also damaged.									
Defiance County 45 E Near Defiance to 46 E Near Defiance	18	2233EST 2235EST			0	0	10K	0	Thunderstorm Wind
Trees and power lines down in county.									
Allen County 5 N Fort Wayne	18	2246EST 2247EST			0	0	0.50K	0	Thunderstorm Wind
Eighteen inch tree blown down north side of fort wayne.									
INDIANA, Northwest									
St. Joseph County South Bend	05	1542EST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Strong thunderstorms that moved through northwest Indiana during the after noon hours, produced hail, strong winds and locally heavy rain.									
La Porte County La Porte	18	2100EST			0	0		0	Thunderstorm Wind
Damage occurred mainly in the northern portion of the county, with many trees and large limbs down in LaPorte. Some limbs fell across roads and houses.									
Starke County Knox	18	2110EST			0	0		0	Thunderstorm Wind

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INDIANA, Northwest

Strong winds downed trees north of Knox.

St. Joseph County South Bend

18 2113EST **0 0** **Thunderstorm Wind (G81)**
A 93 mph wind gust was recorded at the Michiana Regional Airport in South Bend. The re was widespread damage to trees, limbs and power lines. Trees and limbs fell on houses.

St. Joseph County Mishawaka

18 2114EST **0 0** **Thunderstorm Wind (G56)**
Trees and limbs downed.

Elkhart County Elkhart

18 2130EST **0 0** **Thunderstorm Wind (G65)**
2140EST
A 75 mph wind gust was r ecor ded at Goshen at 930pm. Winds wer e estimated at 70 mph or gr eater at Elkhart, Bristol and Middlebury. Goshen was hardest hit with many large trees and limbs, broken uprooted, down on houses and cars. Most damage occurred around 3rd and Main Streets. Shingles were torn off roof tops. Reported 30 or 40 power poles blown down in the county.

Marshall County Tippecanoe

18 2130EST **0 1** **0** **Thunderstorm Wind**
A trailer was blown over, one person was injured.

Kosciusko County Warsaw

18 2200EST **0 0** **0** **Thunderstorm Wind**
Trees and limbs downed.

MICHIGAN, West

Branch County Coldwater

05 1720EST **0 0** **Hail (0.75)**

Branch County Quincy

05 1734EST **0 0** **Hail (0.75)**
A line of strong to severe thunderstorms developed along a cold front which moved through Michigan's Lower Peninsula during the late afternoon and evening hours of May 5, 1997. Low atmospheric freezing levels supported considerable hail with some of these storms. Numerous reports of hail were received by the National Weather Service Office in Grand Rapids, including golfball sized hail in Grand Rapids and near Mount Pleasant. No injuries or significant property damage was reported, but crop damage did occur across Ottawa, Kent, Allegan, Lake, and Isabella Counties, although damage estimates were not available.

Berrien County St Joseph

18 2041EST **0 0** **Thunderstorm Wind (G61)**

Berrien County Three Oaks

18 2050EST **0 0** **5K** **Thunderstorm Wind**
Berrien County officials reported winds snapped off pine trees and blew the roof off of a resident's garage and dumped it 300 feet away from the garage. Downed power lines cut power to approximately 1300 customers in Berrien County.

Branch County Sherwood

18 2130EST **0 0** **10K** **Thunderstorm Wind**
2145EST
Branch County Central Dispatch and Road Commission reported downed trees and power lines in Sher wood Township, in the northwest part of the county. A recreational trailer, parked on the side of the road on Division Street was torn open and the contents were strewn several yards. Some minor damage was done to mobile homes. Sever al trees and large limbs wer e downed along Sherwood Road. Extensive damage was done to a nature trail at Sherwood Elementary School.

St. Joseph County Sturgis

18 2135EST **0 0** **2.5K** **Thunderstorm Wind**
St. Joseph Central Dispatch reported several trees and power lines downed in Sturgis.

St. Joseph County Three Rivers

18 2135EST **0 0** **2.5K** **Thunderstorm Wind**
Several trees and power lines downed in Three Rivers.

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MICHIGAN, West

Hillsdale County

Camden **18** **2215EST** **0** **0** **5K** **Thunderstorm Wind**

Hillsdale County Central Dispatch reported a residence at 13080 South Edon Road was damaged by severe thunderstorm winds. A machine shop, another out-building, and the home received minor damage.

Hillsdale County

Hillsdale **18** **2215EST** **0** **1** **50K** **Thunderstorm Wind**

Hillsdale County officials reported trees and power lines were downed by straight-line thunderstorm winds across Allen, Adams, and Wheatland townships. Four barns were destroyed at 3120 East Bacon Road in Hillsdale and damage was done to the home at the same address. One woman sustained minor injuries when the trailer she was in parked on Meadow Lane tipped over.

A strong area of low pressure located in Wisconsin on the evening of Sunday, May 18, 1997, triggered severe thunderstorms along a convergence boundary across northern Illinois, northern Indiana, and extreme southern Lower Michigan.

OHIO, North

OHZ002-005

Fulton - Henry

01 **0000EST** **0** **0** **Excessive Rain**
31 **2359EST**

Due to excessive rainfall and lower than normal temperatures, approximately 75 percent of field planting was not done on time. Some farmers got an early start, but crops already in the ground were underwater and rotting. Farmers were urged to plant soybeans instead of corn which does not fare well in wet conditions. But, corn that was sprayed with chemicals that kill beans could not be replanted to soybeans. The rain could also affect this year's wheat crop which is susceptible to head scab when wet weather occurs while the wheat is flowering. In the northwestern counties, where truck farming is prevalent, the planting of tomatoes, cucumbers and other produce was also behind schedule.

Fulton County

Metamora **05** **1915EST** **0** **0** **Hail (0.75)**

Henry County

Ridgeville Corners **18** **2232EST** **0** **0** **2K** **Thunderstorm Wind (G58)**

Fulton County

Delta **18** **2240EST** **0** **0** **2K** **Thunderstorm Wind**

Large hail, up to one inch in diameter, fell in several locations. In Marion (Marion County), hail was reported up to two inches deep on some roads. Thunderstorm winds downed trees, large branches, and power lines, and several buildings were damaged or destroyed. In Bowling Green (Wood), several barn roofs were blown off with some of the pieces landing on a nearby house. Also, in Bowling Green, a 60 foot tree fell on a house and at least one tree fell on a car. The tops were blown off several trees, a camping trailer was blown 100 feet and an awning was ripped off a house in Kirkpatrick (Marion). In Richland County, trees were downed on a house in Bellville, and in Mansfield, a barn considered to be in good shape was blown down. A 67 mile per hour wind gust was reported in Ridgeville Corners in Henry County. In Liberty Center, also in Henry County, an enclosed porch was blown off a house, a garage collapsed, a barn roof was blown off and vehicles were damaged by falling trees and limbs. A construction trailer was blown across a road in Fremont (Sandusky). In Fostoria (Seneca), a barn roof was blown 2000 feet into a field and pieces of wood were pushed into the side of a barn by the force of the wind. In Bettsville, also in Seneca County, two garages were blown away, with one landing on railroad tracks and one in a field. In Sandusky County, a 65 mile per hour wind was reported in Erie.

OHIO, Southwest

Allen County

Lafayette **18** **1527EST** **0** **0** **25K** **Thunderstorm Wind (G60)**
Several barns were damaged or destroyed and numerous trees and power lines were downed.

Paulding County

Paulding **18** **2245EST** **0** **0** **5K** **Thunderstorm Wind (G50)**
2250EST
Numerous trees downed.

Putnam County

Ottawa **18** **2300EST** **1** **0** **10K** **Thunderstorm Wind (G50)**
Numerous trees down including one that fell on a car causing a fatality. F42VE

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<u>OHIO, Southwest</u>									
Allen County									
Beaverdam	18	2325EST 2330EST			0	0	25K		Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
Several barns damaged or destroyed. Two silos were damaged and trees downed.									
Paulding County									
Payne	25	0830EST 1100EST			0	0	10K		Flood
Numerous roads closed due to persistent heavy rainfall.									
Putnam County									
Ottawa	25	0830EST 1100EST			0	0	10K		Flood
Numerous roads closed due to persistent heavy rainfall.									
Allen County									
Lima to Bluffton	25	1210EST 1400EST			0	0	10K		Flood
Riley creek in Bluffton rose out of its banks causing 6 residents to be evacuated. Several roads flooded across the county.									
OHZ016									
Putnam	26	0500EST			0	0			Flood
	28	0300EST							
The Blanchard River at Ottawa rose to 26.5 feet on the 27th around 200 am est causing extensive flooding of the town. Flood stage is 23.0 feet.									